

## NEWPORT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

## **Fire Extinguishers**

#### Using a Fire Extinguisher

There is a simple acronym to remember how to operate most fire extinguishers—

PASS= Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep.

- ·Pull the pin at the top of the cylinder.
- · Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire.
- · **Squeeze** or press the handle.
- **Sweep** the contents from side to side at the base of the fire until it goes out.

#### You should only fight a fire when:

- Everyone has left the building.
- The fire department has been called.
- The fire is small and confined to the immediate areas where it started.
- You can fight the fire with your back to a safe escape route.
- Your extinguisher is rated for the type of fire you are fighting and is in good working order.
- You have had training in use of the extinguisher and are confident that you can operate it effectively.

#### **Types of Fires**

Fire extinguishers are labeled according to the type of fire on which they may be used.

**TYPE A**: This extinguisher is used for ordinary combustibles such as cloth, wood, rubber, and many plastics.

**TYPE B**: This extinguisher is used for flammable liquid fires such as oil, gasoline, paints, lacquers, grease, and solvents.

**TYPE C**: This extinguisher is used for electrical fires such as in wiring, fuse boxes, energized electrical equipment and other electrical sources.

**TYPE D**: This extinguisher is used for metal fires such as magnesium, titanium and sodium.



**PASS** 

Pull

Aim

Squeeze

Sweep

#### **Growth and Speed of Fire**

The following is a timeline of an actual 2-story house fire. It will demonstrate how fast fire spreads:

- :30 Fire ignites and grows rapidly.
- 1:04 From first flame, fire spreads and smoke begins to fill room.
- 1:35 Smoke layer descends rapidly, temperature exceeds 109°F.
- 1:50 Smoke detector at foot of stairs alarms. Still time to get out.
- 2:30 Temperature above couch over 400°F
- 2:48 Smoke pours into other rooms.
- 3:03 Temperature three feet above floor in room of origin is over 500°F. (No one could survive.)
- 3:20 Upstairs hall filled with smoke-escape more difficult.
- 3:41 FLASHOVER—Energy in room of origin ignites everything. Temperature is 1400°F
- 3:50 Two minutes after smoke alarms sound, 2nd exit is only way out.
- 4:33 Flames just now visible from exterior of house-first evidence of fire from outside.

# AT THIS POINT, RESCUE MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE

### **Newport Beach Fire Department**

www.nbfd.net

Fire Business 949-644-3104 Fire or Medical Emergency 9-1-1